

around the neck thereof. A hand held radio transmitter is provided for sending radio signals to electronic collar assembly 12 (column 1, lines 61-65). Electronic collar assembly 12 includes a strap 16 equipped with a buckle 18 for securing collar assembly 12 to the animal. Generally opposite buckle 18, a casing 20 is attached to strap 16 for housing the various electronic components of electronic assembly 12. As can be understood from Fig. 2, various components are mounted on or in casing 20. A source of electrical power, such as battery 22, is provided on electronic collar assembly 12. Battery 22 provides a current to microprocessor-microcontroller 24 and to various other components connected thereto (Column 2, lines 10-28). A pager receiver 36 is connected to microcontroller 24, receiver 36 being a radio receiver. Receiver 36 receives radio signals from hand held transmitter 14 (column 2, lines 49-54). Collar assembly 12 is outfitted with a microphone or probe 30 and electrical probes 34 which are in contact with the neck of the animal under control. Collar 12 is programmed to detect or sense through microphone 30 when the animal is barking and then to provide stimulation through electrical probes 34 if the barking is not stopped. Various levels of high voltages and various impulse sequences may be applied across probes 34 so as to deliver an unpleasant punitive stimulation (shock) to the animal wearing collar assembly 12 (column 3, lines 38-48).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a probe adapted to mechanically contact and generate a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse against the skin of the animal;

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, and Applicant's invention includes distinct advantages thereover.

Christiansen discloses the use of electrical probes 34 which are in contact with the animal's neck, for the purpose of applying an electrical shock to the animal when undesired behavior is detected. While Christiansen does describe a device for the control of animal behavior it does not contain any reference to the use of a mechanical stimulus to accomplish control of the animal. Therefore, Christiansen fails to teach or suggest a probe adapted to mechanically contact and generate a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse against the skin of the animal, as recited in part by claim 1, as amended.

The present invention as set forth by claim 1 has distinct advantages over the cited reference, in that a negative stimulus of a mechanical nature can be applied to a disobedient animal. A further advantage is that the Applicant's invention is not dependent upon electrical contact to be effective and is not therefore subject to the moisture local to electrical probes nor to the thickness and electrical resistance of animal hair. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 9, as amended, recites in part:

pressure pulse generating means carried by the collar for generating a mechanical compression wave that induces the pressure pulse.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, and Applicant's invention includes distinct advantages thereover.

Christiansen discloses the use of electrical probes 34 which are in contact with the animal's skin, for the purpose of applying an electrical shock to the animal when undesired behavior is detected. While Christiansen does describe a device for the control of animal behavior it does not contain any reference to the use of a mechanical stimulus to the animal.

Therefore, Christiansen fails to teach or suggest a pressure pulse generating means carried by the collar for generating a mechanical compression wave that induces the pressure pulse, as recited in part by claim 9, as amended.

The present invention as set forth by claim 9 has distinct advantages over the cited reference, in that a negative stimulus of a mechanical nature can be applied to a disobedient animal. A further advantage is that the Applicant's invention is not dependent upon electrical contact to be effective and is not therefore subject to the moisture local to electrical probes nor to the thickness and electrical resistance of animal hair. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9, and claims 10-18 that depend from claim 9, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 19, as amended, recites in part:

directing a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse wave to the skin of the animal when undesirable behavior is detected.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, and Applicant's invention includes distinct advantages thereover.

Christiansen discloses the use of electrical probes 34 which are in contact with the animal's skin, for the purpose of applying an electrical shock to the animal when undesired behavior is detected. While Christiansen does describe a device for the control of animal behavior it does not contain any reference to the use of a mechanical stimulus to the animal. Therefore, Christiansen fails to teach or suggest directing a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse wave to the skin of the animal when undesirable behavior is detected, as recited in part by claim 19, as amended.

The present invention, as set forth by claim 19, has distinct advantages over the cited reference, in that a negative stimulus of a mechanical nature can be applied to a disobedient animal. A further advantage is that the Applicant's invention is not dependent upon electrical contact to be effective and is not therefore subject to the moisture local to electrical probes nor to the thickness and electrical resistance of animal hair. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 19, and claims 20-25 that depend from claim 19, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christiansen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,498 (Westrick et al.). However, claim 18 depends from claim 9, which has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 18 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 9-25, under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1, 7-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,697, Applicant has contemporaneously with this amendment submitted a Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2 and 9-25 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

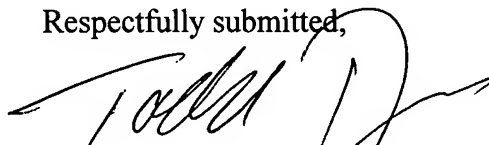
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally

petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,
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Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to
telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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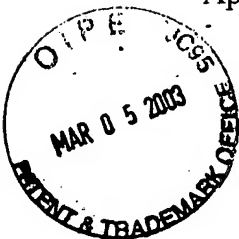
Date

Title: PRESSURE PULSE PROBE FOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CORRECTION

Application Serial No.: 10/037,197

Group: 3634

Examiner: S. Nguyen



ATTACHMENT A:
MARKED-UP COPY SHOWING AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) 1. A collar mounted animal control device for controlling the behavior of an animal, comprising:

a pressure pulse generator carried by the collar, said pressure pulse generator including a probe adapted to mechanically contact and generate a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse against the skin of the animal; and

a controller coupled with said pressure pulse generator for controlling selective application of the pressure pulse.

9. (Amended) A collar mounted animal control device adapted to be in contact with the skin of an animal, said animal control device comprising:

pressure pulse generating means carried by the collar for generating a mechanical compression wave that induces the pressure pulse; and

a controller operatively associated with said pressure pulse means for selectively generating a pressure pulse.

19. (Amended) A method of providing animal control, comprising the steps of:

applying a pressure pulse wave generating collar to an animal;

monitoring the animal;

identifying undesirable behavior from monitoring the animal; and

Title: PRESSURE PULSE PROBE FOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CORRECTION

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directing a mechanical compression wave that induces a pressure pulse wave to the skin of the animal when undesirable behavior is detected.